

CITY SG – Feb 13th/14th

Bible Story: Without a Paddle (Peter walks on water) • *Matthew 14:22-33 (Supporting: Matthew 14:13-21)*

Bottom Line: When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears.

Memory Verse: “Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.” *Hebrews 11:1, NIV*

Life App: Faith—believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for loving us and knowing us. Ask God to protect the kids from fear and doubt. Pray the kids will find their safety and courage in God’s power.

Letters Of Love *(Please do this activity first)*

What You Need: Letters of Love Stationary, writing prompt

What You Do:

Pass out a piece of stationary and writing prompt to each child. Make sure to collect the prompts to be used by the next group

What You Say: We are going to be writing some letters to kids in Africa. These are kids who go to the same school as _____ and _____ who we sponsor with our offering. We just want to send them a letter to tell them we are thinking of them way across the world in the United States.

Hop of Faith *(review the Bible story)*

What You Need: “Hop of Faith”

What You Do:

Line kids up shoulder-to-shoulder facing you and stand a few feet away from them. Tell kids that you are going to ask them questions about the story they just heard and they are going to have to take a leap of faith—actually, a hop of faith—in order to get the chance to answer it! When kids think they know the answer, they are to hop with their feet together towards you. The first kid to hop gets the chance to answer the question. If the question is answered correctly, kids reset in line and listen to the next question. Once a kid has answered, let someone else answer the next time. When all questions have been answered, circle up and discuss!

What You Say:

“I’m sure Peter was terrified of the stormy waters, even though he was safe inside his boat. Can you imagine how scary it would have been to hop out of the boat and into the sea? But one thing calmed Peter’s fears: Jesus. He saw Jesus walk *on top of* the water. So, Peter knew anything was possible for Jesus—even giving Peter the ability to walk on water, too. **[Apply] If Jesus can give Peter the ability to not only face his fear but walk *on top of* it, He can definitely keep us safe from whatever we**

are afraid of and overcome all our fears! I don't have to be afraid because **[Impress]** when I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears."

You Can Be Sure *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Memory Verse Sheet

What You Do:

Hold up the memory verse sheet from the bin. Read Hebrews 11:1 to the kids and then aloud together. Define the word "Faith," emphasizing that faith is trusting that something is true or real even if we have never seen it or experienced it before. Briefly highlight that Peter had faith to walk to Jesus on the water: He trusted that Jesus could help him do it, even though it seemed impossible!

Note: If you look up the memory verse in the Bibles it will be a little different as it is the NIV version

Next, invite a volunteer to stand by you and cross her arms over her chest. Position yourself about two feet behind her. Guide her to stiffen and fall backwards for you to catch her. Invite her to take a second turn. Continue until every child has a chance to have two turns.

What You Say:

"How did it feel to think about falling backwards? Did you think I would catch you? How did it feel when you were falling? How did it feel when I caught you? Was it easier to let yourself fall backward the second time? Why?

"It can be scary to fall backward even when you know someone you trust will catch you. But once you experience falling, being caught, and feeling safe, it helps you trust again and again. The same thing is true with our relationship with God. **[Apply] The more we know Him and the more we experience His love for us and what He can do, the more it helps us face our fears.** It's like our Bottom Line says: **[Impress] When I experience what God can do, it helps me face my fears.**

Prayer Activity

What You Need: Crayola Color Wonder Finger paint, blue cardstock, Baby wipes



What You Do:

Guide the kids to say, **I can trust God no matter what.** Have kids make a footprint picture on a piece of blue paper:

1. Make a fist with your hand.
2. Use a finger from your other hand to coat the outside edge of your fist (the side with your pinky) with finger paint.
3. Press your painted fist on the paper. The shape you made looks just like a foot!
4. Add a big toe and 4 smaller toes with your fingertips.

Let kids take their papers home as reminders that Peter trusted God when he walked on water and God can help them face their fears too.

Pray together:

“Dear God, there are many things that can be scary. Sometimes, we just don’t know how things will turn out, and it scares us. Please help us trust Your love and care for us. Please help us remember that You are big enough and powerful enough to help us face our fears. Please help us remember the many ways that You have carried us through in the past, so that we can face our fears and trust You. We love You, Jesus. Amen.”

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.